

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 2005-2006 2865

Douglas Owen

From: Barry & Kathy Bracken [bbsea@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2005 3:12 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Ralph Samuels; Rep. Jim Elkins; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux;
Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Mary Kapsner
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Peggy Wilson
Subject: Written testimony on HB 130

To: House Resource Committee Members

RE: HB 130

Dear Honorable Members of the House Resource Committee,

Because of scheduling conflicts, I have been unable to attend the hearings on this bill either in person or by teleconference. Please accept this e-mail message as my testimony and add it to the Bill Record.

I am a longtime resident of Petersburg and currently a member of the Petersburg City Council. Although I am representing myself, because of my position on the Council, I get a lot of feedback from the community. Needless to say, there is a great deal of concern over the transfer of state lands to the University of Alaska. The most common complaints fall into three primary categories, as follows:

- 1. Public process.** Citizens of our community are very concerned that there was no public involvement in the selection of the lands. The University representatives who gave their presentation in town essentially said, "This is the package. Take it or leave it." This is not the way citizens of Alaska are used to being treated, especially in matters as important to the people of the state as this one is.
- 2. Future citizen involvement.** Participants at the University presentation were told that it would be the University's intention to maximize profit from the lands, not to establish the best long-term public good. Again, this runs contrary to past practices of considerable citizen involvement and many residents are concerned that they will be left out of any decision making process, regardless of the potential impacts on communities or resident's lifestyles.
- 3. Concern over specific parcels.** I have also heard a great deal of concern over several specific parcels which are included in the proposed exchange. In our area, the greatest concern is over the Whitney Is. and Read Is. parcels. At one time, both of these areas were included in proposed DNR land disposals, but were withdrawn because of overwhelming public opposition. The prevailing sentiment is that these areas should not be disposed of because of their high recreational and commercial value as intact public lands. The concern is that with less constraints and an abbreviated public process, the University would not be as sensitive to public input.

The third parcel which could impact Petersburg is the Neets Cr. watershed parcel near Ketchikan. The Crystal Lake Hatchery on Mitkof Is. is currently being operated by The Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association under contract to the Dept. of Fish and Game. This hatchery supports several sport fishing lodges in our area. If anything happens to jeopardize the Neets Bay Hatchery, which is the flagship of the SSRAA aquaculture system, then their ability to continue operation of Crystal Lake Hatchery could also be in jeopardy. Conservative estimates place the annual value of the Crystal Lake Hatchery to the Petersburg area economy at nearly \$2 million.

2/17/2005

With these concerns being expressed, I request that this bill not be passed out of committee, at least until the communities of the state have an opportunity to hold public meetings and to collectively provide input regarding the potential impacts of this legislation. Besides the concerns expressed above, as an alumnus, I think this legislation has the potential to put the University of Alaska into an adversarial role with the citizens of Alaska. This is not in the best interest of either the University or the people of the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Barry Bracken

cc: Senator Steadman, Representative Wilson

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February 17, 2005

Chairman Jay Ramras
Chairman Ralph Samuals
House Resources Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Ak

Mr. Chairmen,

There was not enough time to give my testimony at yesterday's hearing on HB 130. So I am sending it to you in writing.

My name is John Peckham. I have resided in Ketchikan and commercially fished since 1975. I am on the Board of Directors of SSRAA and I currently serve as vice president.

I am against the area around Neets Creek being selected for the University of Alaska's land grant.

As you know the watershed and waterfront at Neets Creek help produce millions of salmon that improve southeast salmon fisheries. The economic activity that surrounds that production is an important contributor to Ketchikan's economy. It is hard to imagine a better use for this land. It does not make sense to give it to an organization that would need to use the land in another way.

Any other use of the watershed or the available water is not worth the risk to the hatchery's production and survival.

SSRAA is a non-profit organization. We are currently 9 million dollars in debt. If there was any money to be made from a usage of the waterfront that was compatible with our hatchery we would have already thought of it and implemented it, since we are always struggling with achieving our goals of providing common property fish and meeting our financial obligations.

Having a landlord whose obligation is to make as much money as possible from the land for their own funding is not compatible with SSRAA's goals.

I urge you to do what it takes to deselct the Neets Creek parcel from the University's land grant list.

Thankyou.

FACSIMILE FORM

FEB 16 2005

Barry Bracken
P.O. BOX 1201
Petersburg, AK 99833

PHONE/FAX: (907) 772-3736

E-mail: bbsea@gci.net

Web site: <http://www.petersburglodgingandtours.com>

TO: House Resource Committee
Alaska State Legislature

DATE: Feb. 16, 2005

NO. PAGES: 2
(Including cover page)

RE: Written Testimony on HB-130

This is a follow-up of written testimony I sent to individual members of the House Resource Committee via e-mail. For some reason, Rep. Elkin's message was returned and I'd like to make certain he receives the message. Personnel at our Legislative Information Office suggested that I FAX the message to the committee as well.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

To: House Resource Committee Members

RE: HB 130

Dear Honorable Members of the House Resource Committee,

Because of scheduling conflicts, I have been unable to attend the hearings on this bill either in person or by teleconference. Please accept this e-mail message as my testimony and add it to the Bill Record.

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With these concerns being expressed, I request that this bill not be passed out of committee, at least until the communities of the state have an opportunity to hold public meetings and to collectively provide input regarding the potential impacts of this legislation. Besides the concerns expressed above, as an alumnus, I think this legislation has the potential to put the University of Alaska into an adversarial role with the citizens of Alaska. This is not in the best interest of either the University or the people of the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Barry Bracken

cc: Senator Steadman, Representative Wilson

Douglas Owen

From: Alaska Passages [info@alaskapassages.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 2:58 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: House Bill 130

FEB 23 2005

February 21, 2005

Dear Representative Ramras;

I am glad that you were able to give people time to testify on House Bill 130 last week, even though the Bill had been pulled from consideration pending some rewriting. Many people had waited a long time to testify and had worked hard on their testimony. Letting people air their concerns goes a long way towards earning their trust in public process.

I wish to respond to your closing remarks at the end of the teleconference, when you said that House Bill 130 sought to find ways for people to own private land in Alaska. I agree with what you said that ownership of private land is important. When local people own the lands they live on it forms a strong sense of community and pride of place.

I do not believe that House Bill 130 is going to do that however.

The lands that are going to be sold in remote settings such as Whitney Island by Cape Fanshaw or Sanford Cove in Endicott Arm are too remote for community settlement. At best, they could be used for seasonal vacation cabins. In selling these properties off for this purpose, the University may realize a small profit but in the meantime would be privatizing public recreation lands. The Central/ Southeast Area Plan has designated Sanford Cove, Whitney Island and Read Island in Farragut bay as "Ru or undeveloped recreation" These are "areas that offer a high potential for dispersed recreation or tourism". The Plan goes on to say that these lands "cannot be sold to individuals".

Lots of time and research went into the Area Plans to come up with those land designations. It does not make sense to arbitrarily change the plans for convenience sake, or to make a buck. That shows lack of vision and a lack of respect for the planning process.

So what would be the point in offering remote parcels like these to the University for sale? They would be unable to realize much profit on them without going against land use planning designations which would be very unwise.

I am also concerned with the University getting 2000 acres of Mitkof Island. Petersburg is looking to form a borough and this land would come out of the land my community wants to include in our borough. Let us have that land and we can sell it off to help defray the huge shortfalls that our local school systems are facing.

As I have said in earlier testimony, the University will only realize 1% of its annual income from these properties if they sell. It is not enough money to warrant the trouble this will cause throughout South Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Hursey
Box 213
Petersburg, Alaska

Christine Marasigan

From: Pam Foreman [pforeman@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 10:44 AM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens; Christine Marasigan; Tuck Bonney; Tom Abell; Pat Branson; Nancy Wells; Mike Anderson; Cecil Ranney; Barbara Williams; Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 130

Hello Representative LeDoux -

I wanted to share a few thoughts on HB 130. I'm not sure I will be able to be at the LIO today for the scheduled hearing, but perhaps you can share these thoughts with your committee members.

Although I was relieved to read in last night's paper that the University doesn't intend to sell the Narrow Cape land identified in the Governor's bill for transmittal to the University, the fact is that there are no guarantees that a sale won't happen at some point in the future. As you know, there is very little public land accessible by road in Kodiak. The land identified in HB130 represents a segment of public land that is important to local residents for hiking, beach combing, fishing, bird watching and wildlife viewing. I would hope that the committee will identify existing trails, roads and other easements on this land within the legislation, guaranteeing for future generations that the land and waterways will still be accessible to the public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pam Foreman

Christine Marasigan

From: Barbara Rudio [brudio@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 11:14 AM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Narrow Cape

I am unable to attend the HB 130 teleconference this afternoon, but want to pass on my opinion.

I urge removing the Narrow Cape parcel from the land transfer to the University system. Although University spokespersons have indicated that the parcel would be treated as educational and say that it would be unlikely it would ever be sold. We need to remember all the things we were told about the launch complex that would never happen -- and most of them have happened.

This parcel is vital to the recreational activities of Kodiak residents and visitors. We have so little public land on the road system.

Thank you -- Barbara Rudio, 486-8369

Christine Marasigan

From: Beverly Horn [bevjack7@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 11:14 AM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep.Jayramras@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Fw: Narrow Cape

----- Original Message -----

From: Beverly Horn
To: Gabreille LeDeoux@legis.state.ak.us ; Gary Stevens@legis.state.ak.us
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 11:50 AM
Subject: Fw: Narrow Cape

----- Original Message -----

From: Beverly Horn
To: Ledoux@legis.state.ak.us ; Stevens@legis.state.ak.us
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 11:44 AM
Subject: Narrow Cape

Please be advised that we do not support SB 96 nor HB130 pertaining to land at Narrow Cape. That is just a sneaky way of getting around the problem with AADC.

Also,we do not want to see this land closed to the public at any time. We have never supported AADC and especially do not now. They have lied to Kodiak residents time and again.

Please do not support this manuever! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Beverly and Louie Horn P.O. Box 15 Kodiak, Ak 99615
(or bevjack7@gci.net)

Christine Marasigan

From: rosemary mcguire [ftrdm@uaf.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 9:20 AM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: Narrow Cape

Dear Ms. LeDoux,

I am writing to urge you to help remove the 3,000 acre parcel at Narrow Cape on Kodiak Island from the bill transferring state lands to the University. This land is economically and socially important to the people of Kodiak. If the land is given to the university there is a strong likelihood that Kodiak residents will lose access to it, considering the ongoing controversy surrounding it.

Many of us see this bill as an underhanded way to develop state lands without input from the people of Alaska. Anything you can do to mitigate its blows to local communities would be appreciated.

Thankyou,

Rosemary McGuire
574-68-4631

Christine Marasigan

From: Skimin, David PO2 [DSkimin@CGAlaska.uscg.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 8:05 AM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: AADC

Mrs. Ledoux

I am in grave concern with the proposed land transfer to AADC via UofA. The land to be allocated is a heavily used area and is visited year-round. Please concenter the communities requests and ensure the committee reviews the outcome from the land use survey that was taken from DNR.

Very Respectfully
David Skimin

Christine Marasigan

From: Mike Sirofchuck [msirofchuck@kodiak.k12.ak.us]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 8:05 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Ralph Samuels; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Jim Elkins; Rep. Carl Gatto;
Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Mary Kapsner
Subject: Please remove "Kodiak Rocket Range" from HB 130

The land designated "Kodiak Rocket Range" should not be conveyed to the University. First, the name is incorrect and a misnomer. This parcel is listed on maps as Narrow Cape; is it NOT a "rocket range".

The AADC structures on this land are individually fenced off and connected by a single road; they do not sprawl all over the parcel.

This parcel is the only large parcel of land connected to the Kodiak road system that is available for public recreation.

Most other land adjoining our road system is in private hands, including Native land claims. It is vital that this area be kept open for public access.

Regardless of what the University may say, once they own the land, there is nothing to stop them from selling it to AADC and effectively closing it to public access.

Both the University and especially AADC have been very closed to public input on use of their lands.

It should be clear from the number of comments coming from Kodiak that the community does not support this conveyance.

Please support the wishes of our community.

Please find another parcel of land to substitute for this one.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Sirofchuck
Kodiak, Alaska

Christine Marasigan

From: barbara [browndog@ptialaska.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 7:53 AM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: oppose bouse bill 130

I oppose the governors plan to by pass local government land us planning efforts t y the transfer of land to the University of Alaska

2/9/2005

Christine Marasigan

From: Patrick Saltonstall [pgsalton@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 7:50 AM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Narrow Cape Land

Dear Gabrielle and Gary,

I am sure you are getting a number of emails on this one! Here is my take. The people of Kodiak really do not have all that much public land on the road system - most of it is owned by Lesnoi and other private entities. That land could be developed or have access restricted at any time. This is why the Narrow Cape area is so important. It is public (state owned) land that any one can drive out to and enjoy. 2,800 acres is a huge percentage of all the public land on the road system. I really do not trust the Rocket launch and UAA on this one, and would hate to see access limited to this highly valuable recreational area.

Perhaps the UAA people could choose another area? Perhaps down on Sitkinak or out on the Kupreanof Peninsula? Or if they absolutely have to have the Narrow Cape Land could it be put into the deed of sale that access can not be restricted in any way and that the borough gets first right of refusal on any land sale. Personally, I would be worried even about the latter. They would probably shut the area down in the 'interests of national security'.

Narrow Cape is a gem, and a great place to recreate. I always take visitors out there to walk the beaches. And make a migration out every spring to watch whales. Please keep it State Owned. While State owned at least the public has some sort of oversight on the launch complex.

I fear the day there is no oversight and access.

Thanks,

Patrick Saltonstall
PO Box 3553
Kodiak, AK

Christine Marasigan

From: edward gondok [edbud@theriver.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 6:37 AM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Sen. Gary Stevens; Laurie Madsen; Peggy Jean Smith
Subject: Fw: HB130
Attachments: "AVG certification"

Here are my comments sent to Dr. Bob to be read into the record tonight since I am unable to attend.

----- Original Message -----

From: edward gondok
To: Dr. Bob Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 8:34 AM
Subject: HB130

Please read into the record tonight for me at the hearing since I can't be there.

Please remove Narrow Cape from bill HB130. We the people of Kodiak are who lives here and we are the caretakers of this wonderful Island. The AADC should not be who regulates our access to Fossil Beach and Narrow Cape. I have more good memories than I could possibly say about my times roaming this area. What I really object to is the fact that Mark Hamilton is the President of the Uof A system and the Chairman of the Board of AADC as well. How can we possible get a fair deal when he is involved in both sides of the possible future land transaction. This should be conflict of interests, none of which include a fair deal for Kodiak citizens. I urge Ms. Ledoux and Mr. Stevens to work to remove Narrow Cape from this bill. The AADC doesn't own Kodiak, YET. Rose Cobls Box 2875 Kodiak Ak 907-487-2507

Christine Marasigan

From: v34@gci.net
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 6:31 AM
To: Christine Marasigan
Subject: HB 130 comments for Rep. LeDoux

Dear Gabrielle:

I believe that it is in the best interest of our community that the lands designated "Kodiak Rocket Range" be removed from the list of state lands to be conveyed to the University of Alaska.

While there are provisions for public input if the University decides to sell, the bottom line is this:

once the University has title to the land, they can do whatever they want.

Despite any assurances, there is no guarantee that they will not sell it to AADC. It is not improbable to think that Senator Ted Stevens could find federal dollars to finance AADC's purchase of Narrow Cape.

If the land cannot be removed from the list, guarantees should be written into HB 130 that the land cannot be sold or developed in violation of Borough codes and comprehensive plans.

It could be written into the bill that the land be used for research only and must remain in the hands of the University.

Thanks for your efforts to protect the interests of our community.

Mike Sirofchuck
Kodiak

Christine Marasigan

From: Daniel Rohrer [DRohrer@GCI.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 9:14 PM
To: Christine Marasigan
Subject: *****SPAM***** House Bill 130. Narrow Cape Land

Christine,

Please forward this to Gabrielle. You are welcomed to read it.

Thanks
Dan Rohrer

Gabrielle,

I normally don't voice much of an opinion about things that are discussed in the editorial pages of the Kodiak Daily Mirror. I always read them and watch with some amusement as people get very worked up over a wide variety of issues. I have read the editorials through the years between AADC and "concerned" Kodiak citizens. I have questioned all along why everyone was getting so worked up. We were told up front that it would not require much land and that there would be very minimal closures if any at all. The up side was of course economic. I am usually always a supporter of new money being brought into the community.

I am now concerned with where I see this UA land transaction headed. AADC has made it clear that they want large portions of land under their control to allow for a viable rocket launch facility in a post 911 world. I assume there is some validity in that statement. I can at least understand where they are coming from. The problem is that the people of Kodiak have clearly stated that they don't want to see that land closed at all. I am one of those people. I enjoy having the freedom to go to the Narrow Cape area and camp or ride horses, etc. I have found great enjoyment in doing that through the years and I would like to see my children be able to do the same thing in the future. The land transaction is giving UA an asset that they can use for the "betterment" of their program. I recognize the value that the Poker Flat Research Range has been but I don't foresee them needing a similar situation in Kodiak. The land would be "educational property" but that doesn't preclude them from selling or at the very least from controlling access and selling that control. I know that UA is quoted in today's Kodiak Daily Mirror as saying that they "can't imagine why they would sell it." UA's spokesperson Ripley then goes on to say "there is no promise that they wouldn't (sell), but there would need to be a compelling reason for the university system to sell." I would suggest that a large amount of money is a very compelling reason to sell. Also allowing closures for a price is very compelling. When attempting to balance a tight budget a lot of things become fair game. I am also concerned about the obvious conflict of interest that Mark Hamilton has in this situation. I know that Ripley goes on to say that any land sales would have an open public process. This doesn't mean they wouldn't happen. In light of the fact that this land exchange is on a fact track through the legislature and the majority of us in Kodiak found out about this today I would suggest that Hamilton's power is not something to be underestimated. Being the president of both boards means it is not lost on him that there is a huge potential advantage for both organizations. Apart from the citizens of Kodiak, others will probably look at any deal between UA and AADC as a mutual win for both organizations. The only people I see losing are the people of Kodiak.....

Gabrielle I am not sure what influence you will be able to have over this bill but I think this bill is one of the exact reasons we have representation in Juneau. I hope that you are able to get the 2,880 acres of state land in Kodiak removed from this land giveaway. There is plenty of other land in the state and even here in Kodiak that could be given without the attached controversy and obvious conflicts of interest.

Thank you for representing us.

Dan Rohrer

PS. I hope you are enjoying the job.

Christine Marasigan

From: hank [hankh@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 8:32 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Cc: Richard Macintosh
Subject: narrow cape

Hi Gabrielle

We do not need this land transfer of the Narrow Cape lands to the U of A. In fact I would like you to introduce a bill making this land a State Park with Burtons able to use their land until their lease expires if not longer. This transfer is an under the table move to remove these lands from public access. I would like your staff to research who is responsible for this inclusion of these lands in the transfer.

My idea of a State Park would secure access to these beautiful beaches and wonderful wild land for future generations and would let the AADC have the original 270 acres that they have now and put control of the road in the State Park's hands so they would have the responsibility of closing it before launches.

Please let me know what you think.

Thanks
Hank Hagemeyer

Christine Marasigan

From: rskinner1 [rskinner@ak.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 10:57 AM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: Narrow Cape Land Grant

Dear Gabrielle,

As a citizen of Kodiak and life-long Alaska Native resident I am concerned about the inclusion of Narrow Cape acreage in Governor Murkowski's proposed University of Alaska land grant. I am very concerned that traditional use of Narrow Cape lands will be further restricted or eliminated when the land enters private ownership. In addition, because the issue of public access to Narrow Cape has been hotly debated in Kodiak this land grant appears an attempt to circumvent further public participation in this land use issue. The fact that University President Hamilton is also on the AADC board of directors creates an impression of impropriety, since an obvious bidder for the land would be AADC as operators of the Kodiak Launch Facility. Other than making you, as my Representative, aware of my concerns and reservations about this proposed land grant, what is the most effective way to participate in the decision-making process?

Thank you,

Rebecca Skinner

Christine Marasigan

From: Deb Spencer [dspencerak@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 6:36 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Ralph Samuels; Rep. Jim Elkins; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Mary Kapsner
Cc: Rep. Peggy Wilson; Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: HB 130

Dear Chair Ramras and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my concerns about HB 130 and its implications for Pelican, my home of 15 years. I am also writing to request that the House Resources Committee schedule additional hearings on HB 130 to allow for greater opportunity for public comment.

At first blush, this legislation appears to be designed to take the public out of public process.

Concurrent referrals to both bodies and short committee lists indicate to me that this bill is on the fast track. Please don't be a rubber stamp. Allow the public process to be just that, public.

I have many concerns about the impact of HB 130 on Lisianski Inlet. My husband and I are partners in a small fish-buying business. Our community's fishing economy is directly connected to healthy streams and forests. The University of Alaska has not shown itself to be a good steward of the land. There must be a better way to fund higher education.

I am unable to attend tomorrow's hearing either in person or via phone due to other commitments. Public notice was so short that I believe many may find themselves in the same predicament. Further, I'm not sure I could educate myself satisfactorily to provide substantive and relevant comment on the proposed legislation at tomorrow's hearing. Please schedule additional hearings on this bill to allow members of the public - all legislators' constituents - an opportunity to weigh in on this important legislation.

Thank you for your careful consideration.
Sincerely,
Deb Spencer
Owner, Shoreline, Inc.

Do you Yahoo!?
Read only the mail you want - Yahoo! Mail SpamGuard.
http://promotions.yahoo.com/new_mail

Christine Marasigan

From: John Witteveen [wclodge@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 4:51 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: Narrow Cape

Gabrielle,
This is a good test of your first year in office. Get Narrow Cape out of the hands of the University so it doesn't end up in the hands of Pat Ladner. I was a firm believer in the rocket launch site when it started but as far as I am concerned now they can shut that place down. Thanks, John

Christine Marasigan

From: Lynne Murphy [hiddenbasin@starband.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 3:00 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: HB 130

remove the Narrow Cape parcel from the Land Grant bills if the bills do not provide BETTER protection for public access in the future.

Christine Marasigan

From: mike litzow [mike_litzow@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 1:33 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: Narrow Cape

Gabrielle - I am very concerned that the proposed transfer of lands at Narrow Cape to the University will eventually result in the loss of public access to the area. I realize that all parties involved will say the right things about continued access, but Pat Ladner is on the record (in his recent letter to the Governor) saying that the ultimate goal of AADC is to prohibit public access to the site. Ladner and AADC have a long history of dealing with the public in bad faith, and I am concerned that this transfer is part of an attempt to circumvent the public process on Narrow Cape access.

Many of the recreational lands in Kodiak are privately owned by Native corporations, and could be closed to public access, which makes state land on Narrow Cape even more important. I would appreciate your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely, Mike Litzow

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Mail - Helps protect you from nasty viruses.
http://promotions.yahoo.com/new_mail

Christine Marasigan

From: Roger Smith [watsmith@ptialaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 12:45 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: HB-130

Gabrielle:

I object to including the Narrow Cape parcel in the proposed land transfer to the University via HB-130. The University has no land management expertise, except selling out the resources as fast as possible. This looks like another case of incest, with ex-military man, Mark Hamilton, getting a fine opportunity to sell out our public access to the rocket launch and to private interests to build the University kingdom.

The DNR is not the greatest advocate of public access under the last couple of governors, but at least there is a public process. The University sold that Saltery Creek parcel on Ebay, for god's sake, with little or no formal public review. In the long run, I think the legislature should strive for more control of how the University uses its lands, at least assuring there is some interagency review of wildlife and fisheries values before selling or leasing.

As a kid who grew up wandering the shortgrass prairie, I am getting increasingly claustrophobic on this Island as our extremely limited road-accessible public lands shrinks.

Thanks for your consideration.

Roger B. Smith
PO Box 2473
Kodiak, AK

CORRECTION

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S)
HAVE BEEN REFILMED TO
ASSURE LEGIBILITY OR PAGINATION



Central Microfilm Services
Department of Education & Early Development
State of Alaska

Christine Marasigan

From: Roger Smith [watsmith@ptialaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 12:45 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: HB-130

Gabrielle:

I object to including the Narrow Cape parcel in the proposed land transfer to the University via HB-130. The University has no land management expertise, except selling out the resources as fast as possible. This looks like another case of incest, with ex-military man, Mark Hamilton, getting a fine opportunity to sell out our public access to the rocket launch and to private interests to build the University kingdom.

The DNR is not the greatest advocate of public access under the last couple of governors, but at least there is a public process. The University sold that Saltery Creek parcel on Ebay, for god's sake, with little or no formal public review. In the long run, I think the legislature should strive for more control of how the University uses its lands, at least assuring there is some interagency review of wildlife and fisheries values before selling or leasing.

As a kid who grew up wandering the shortgrass prairie, I am getting increasingly claustrophobic on this Island as our extremely limited road-accessible public lands shrinks.

Thanks for your consideration.

Roger B. Smith
PO Box 2473
Kodiak, AK

Christine Marasigar

From: Postmaster [Postmaster@tenbears.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 12:03 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: Narrow Cape lands, transfer bills SB 96, HB 130

Representative Ledoux

I urge you not to endorse any legislation that includes the transfer of Narrow Cape lands to the University of Alaska for any reason, whether it be for the sale to AADC, the Kodiak Island Borough or any other entity. Leave these lands alone as state public lands.

Respectfully
Eric Stirrup
P.O. Box 4123
Kodiak, AK

Christine Marasigan

From: Philip Tschersich [tscheezy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 10:03 AM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: State land transfer on Kodiak to the U of A

Dear Representative LeDoux (aka Hi Gabrielle),

I am writing to express my deep concern over land access issues developing at Narrow Cape around the Kodiak Launch Complex. The Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation (AADC) began their sales pitch to the Kodiak community by stating that they would only require a very small footprint and could never imagine needing more land. AADC stated they would not impede access to traditional recreation or fishing areas, would not depend solely on military contracts, and would provide a windfall to the local economy. Now, citing the attacks of 9-11 and using this as a catchall excuse for leveraging access restrictions, they want expanded jurisdiction over the lands at the end of the road.

AADC stated in private communications to the Governor's office and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that they found the public comment process obstructionist and tiresome, so desired to circumvent it through executive order. It seems to have slipped AADC's minds that they were talking about public lands to begin with. AADC's attempts at these backroom dealings have rightly raised the ire of those Kodiak residents who value access to this prime recreation and fishing area.

The state is now considering offering 4,000 acres at Narrow Cape to the University of Alaska. U of A is a land grant college and it is understood that they are to receive revenue for their operations through the sale and development of lands given to it by the state. I think it is safe to assume AADC would be interested in receiving title to those lands at Narrow Cape. As if this were not transparent enough, the state has named the parcel in question the "Kodiak Rocket Range" and has designated a boundary to include the current complex and further envelope all of Narrow Cape (the map can be viewed at the state website: http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/ualands/map_sc_kodiak_rocket.pdf). Once in private control they would be able to do more or less what they please with it. I imagine lip service would be paid to protecting public access as a prerequisite for any sale, but AADC's ability to rationalize restricting access is becoming abundantly clear.

It does look suspicious when the plan to transfer the lands to U of A, and the possible subsequent sale to AADC, comes on the heels of growing local Kodiak opposition to AADC's activities. This opposition is being voiced through the very public process that AADC finds so cumbersome and has sought to subvert. Furthermore, it is unseemly when the president of the University is on AADC's board of directors.

I am strongly opposed to the transfer of the Lands at the end of the road to the University for the reasons stated above. If the transfer to the University does proceed, I would encourage the Kodiak Island Borough to purchase these lands for the good of the community. Very little of the land along the Kodiak road system is actually public, and it would be disturbing to lose even more.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Philip Tschersich

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Mail - Helps protect you from nasty viruses.
http://promotions.yahoo.com/new_mail

Christine Marasigan

From: Karlan Bachmann [starry_karry@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2005 5:21 AM
To: Rep. Mary Kapsner; Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: please do not close this land!!!!

to those it does concern:

i am an alaskan citizen who has been living in chile since february of last year. i plan on coming home this summer. news that i recieve from alaska is alarming. more and more land is being blocked off to citizens, and not for "protection," but rather for military use, thus strengthening the industrial/military/governmental complex. this is dangerous, and is slowly killing the life on this planet. it is slowly killing our land which we need to respect, in order to survive. as the animals with the most priviliges on this planet, we also have the most responsibility. please do not close this land. we need to begin to think differently. we need to begin to live bravely.

sincerely, and with much respect and love,

karlan bachmann

student

starry_karry@hotmail.com

[Organize your inbox and send incoming messages to specific folders. Learn more!](#)

Christine Marasigan

From: Brent & Tash Fristas [pristas@alaska.net]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2005 4:11 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Kodiak Rocket Launch

Representative Ledoux and Senator Stevens:

Please note that I am opposed to HB 130 (and Senate Bill 96, which is apparently similar to HB 130) which proposes to swap land at Narrow Cape from DNR's control to the University of Alaska.

This is an attempt to avoid public process, public scrutiny, and public outrage aimed at the Kodiak Rocket Launch Facility. Kodiak residents have been participating in public comment periods and deserve the right to be involved in how this land at Narrow Cape is ultimately designated.

It is absolutely underhanded of the Governor to turn around and avoid the entire public process by setting up a land deal where the Rocket Launch can BUY the land that Kodiak residents are fighting hard to preserve for public use. This deal will ensure that a select few have their own personal playground on some of our most accessible land.

This land is used by people for a variety of reasons--easy access (no plane or boat required), hunting, fishing, beach combing.....all of these reasons are legitimate and are why we live where we do.

Representative Ledoux, Senator Stevens--please go to bat for us, and oppose this land deal. If you need written comment, tell us when and where to write. If you need verbal comment, tell us when and where.

Please also suggest to the Kodiak Daily Mirror to run your phone number, email address, and times and places for folks to make public comment regarding the Rocket Launch Facility. Those without internet access or English language proficiency will have a hard time digging up the necessary information to participate in public process.

Thanks,

Natasha Zahn Pristas

Christine Marasigan

From: Andi Olsen [andio@keconnect.net]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2005 1:52 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: Rocket Launch Land Transfer

Dear Gabrielle, I just want to put my two cents in regarding the Narrow Cape Land transfer. I have been attending the hearings and meetings regarding the Launch Complex from the very beginning and must say that this is the lowest blow we have recieved from AADC. I have not been in one camp or the other regarding the development of the Narrow Cape facillity, we have friends that have been employeed out at the Site and I can say that there have been positive impact on some sectors of our community. That is not to say that I trust Ladner and company, I think that he has since the beginning understood that this was to be a military operation but knew that the community would not support that and therefore went with the "private company" perspective. I am completely against giving public recreational land away for state gains.

Narrow Cape has been one of my personal favorite spots to hike and beachcomb for years and I don't want to give up access to this area for the profit of a few. I understand that this matter will be under the consideration of the House Resources Committee in the near future. Please remember how many of us use this area and how important and devisive this issue has been to our island people over the years, don't forget us when you make decisions regarding this matter. Sincerely Andi Olsen

Christine Marasigan

From: Charlie and Suzanne King [mardelsud@pci.net]

Sent: Monday, February 07, 2005 4:09 AM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Dear Representative LeDoux:

I have just read an article in the Anchorage newspaper saying that Gov. Murkowski wants to give the University of Alaska 2,880 acres of land at the Kodiak Launch Complex.

I am all for giving land to the University of Alaska but do not believe that any land in, at or near the KLC should be given away under any circumstances.

I feel this move by Gov. Murkowski is a back door maneuver to get around all the opposition in Kodiak to giving the KLC control over a larger area of land.

I am asking that you work to remove this parcel from the list that is being submitted for approval.

Sincerely,

Charlie King
P.O. Box 1573
Kodiak, Ask. 99615
(907) 486-6251

February 6, 2005

Leonard and Carolyn Heitman
P.O. Box 2303
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
cheitman@ptialaska.net

Dear Representatives Mary Kapsner, Ralph Samuels, Jay Ramras, Kurt Olson, Paul Seaton, Carl Gatto and James Elkins,

Regarding Governor Murkowski's request to the Legislature to approve the transfer of state land to the University of Alaska, we are requesting your involvement in removing from the list the 2,880 acres of *prime, public* land at Narrow Cape, Kodiak Island which is presently used by the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation (AADC). The land in question, including Fossil Beach is a highly used recreational area for island residents and if the land transfer is granted to the U of A, the university will most probably turn the land over to the AADC and the land and road to Fossil Beach will be permanently closed year around to residents and tourists alike. The AADC wants to permanently exclude the public from this land.

Kodiak residents have very limited access to recreational areas along the 50 miles of road system. The majority of the road has rocky cliffs and ocean on one side and hillsides on the other. The majority of beaches are not accessible for the same reason. Also, 75% - 80% of the land on Kodiak Island is Federal owned. Kodiak residents are asking that the small percentage of prime, state public land and beaches on Kodiak Island remain available for public use, as this right is granted under the Alaska State Constitution.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources is currently considering the AADC's request for land jurisdiction over an additional 14,000 (fourteen thousand) acres of public land, which many Kodiak residents object to. If this happens, the AADC will then have jurisdiction over a total of 18,000 acres of prime, public use land. The AADC already has the authority to close off the public road at Narrow Cape for a limited amount of time before rocket/missile launches, and therefore there is no need for a permanent ownership request for public lands. Therefore, we are requesting that the Representatives on the House Resources Committee withdraw from consideration the Governor's request that the 2,880 acres of Narrow Cape land on Kodiak Island be transferred to the University of Alaska. Fossil Beach at Narrow Cape is one of the largest prime beaches on Kodiak Island and highly used by local residents and tourists in the summer, and the public does not want to see ownership transferred to the AADC by the University in the future. A copy of this letter is being sent to the House Resources Committee members listed below.

Sincerely,

Leonard and Carolyn Heitman

Christine Marasigan

From: Terry Dickey [tpdsalut@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2005 10:37 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: Narrow Cape, Kodiak

Sunday, February 06, 2005

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux,

I am strongly opposed to the state transferring approximately 3,000 acres of land at Narrow Cape on Kodiak Island to the University of Alaska. This land must remain in the public sector so that access can be maintained to the recreational areas.

Please remove the Narrow Cape parcel of land from the bill that is scheduled for a hearing by the House Resources Committee this week.

Sincerely

Terry Dickey

====
Terry P. Dickey
POB f2148
Fairbanks, AK 99708
tpdsalut@yahoo.com
H:907.479-0131
W:907.474-6950

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Mail - now with 250MB free storage. Learn more.
http://info.mail.yahoo.com/mail_250

Christine Marasigan

From: Ruth Gunderson [kodiak-rg@alaska.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2005 5:11 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: Land at Narrow Cape

Greetings from Kodiak -

I urge you to vote against selling this land at Narrow Cape. You are aware that this is a recreational area and events that Kodiak has is held at that area. Many enjoy the annual Whale watch, many do hike and picnic there and we do enjoy taking our visitors there for we have little else to show them. I come from the State of Wa. and I certainly never saw shells imbedded in the rock before. I cannot walk that lovely beach any longer, but I know of many who do. Please let this belong to the Borough and let it be ours alone for our activities.

I hope our State Representative can help us in every way possible.

Thank you.

Ruth Gunderson

2/9/2005

Christine Marasigan

From: Janet Ladner [jladner@earthlink.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2005 5:03 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Subject: stop AADC and CEO Hayward F. Ladner

To your honorable gabrielle LeDoux:

Please stop the expansion at Narrow Cape and don't ruin the last state that is basically pristine.

Thank you,

Janet McDonald-Ladner



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172
(907) 586-2820
(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

March 1, 2005

Representative Jay Ramras, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (Mail Stop 3100)
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Ramras,

The United Fishermen of Alaska Board of Directors recently met and considered House Bill 130 regarding land grant transfers for the University of Alaska. Fishermen and community representatives from Kodiak have expressed concerns with the inclusion of the Kodiak Rocket Range (MA.KR.1001) in the proposed legislation.

Fishermen and Kodiak residents are concerned that longtime recreational and subsistence uses of the rocket range area will be jeopardized by transfer of the parcel to the University of Alaska.

UFA supports Kodiak fishermen and community in requesting that the Kodiak Rocket Range parcel be excluded from the University Land Grant parcel list in HB 130.

Respectfully,


Mark D. Vinsel
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Druggers Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association
Bristol Bay Reserve • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cordova District Fishermen United • Douglas Island Pink and Chum
Fishing Vessel Owners Association • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association
North Pacific Fisheries Association • North Pacific Scallop Cooperative • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Old Harbor Fishermen's Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation
Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Seiners Marketing Association
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Catcher Boats • United Salmon Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association
Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen

Hoonah Indian Association
P.O. Box 602
Hoonah, AK 99829
Phone (907) 945-3545 Fax (907) 945-3703

March 4, 2005

Rep. Jay Ramras
Co-chair: House Resource Committee
State of Alaska

Re: University Lands bill; HB 130

Dear Representative Ramras,

Please include these statements into the record of testimony regarding state University Lands bill, HB 130.

The Hoonah Indian Association is a federally recognized tribe in accordance with and by the authority of the Acts of Congress of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and May 1, 1936 (49 Stat. 1250).

It is the purpose of this letter to register our opposition to the acquisition of State and Federal lands by the University that come at the cost of Alaska's communities or environment. We are opposed to the efforts of the State and its delegation in Washington D.C. to seek federal taxpayers' land to make up the shortfall, in funding, that results from the State's refusal to fully fund its university system.

We want to assure you that we support the University of Alaska as a land-grant institution, and appreciate the opportunity the University has to responsibly use the lands that have been given to the University's Land-Grant Endowment Trust Fund and helps to pay for the Alaska Scholars Program in addition to various natural resource education and research projects.

Unfortunately, we are aware that in the pursuit of profits some of the University's lands have become the object of wholesale clear-cut logging, oil-leasing, mining and development that we believe has not been in the long-term best interest of the University or the State of Alaska. We are also aware that poor management of some University-authorized operations has resulted in damage to sensitive habitat resulting in numerous citations, as in the case of operations on Cape Yakataga.

Additionally, we are concerned with how the recent Mountain Point land sale by the University in the Ketchikan area, to the ALCAN Forest Products Co., has outraged residents who feel betrayed by the failure of the University and the company to include their participation in project planning. It is unacceptable that they now watch in dismay as their local watershed is clear-cut logged and the values of their community threatened.

We are particularly concerned to see that the bills introduced in the Alaska State Legislature contain language that would repeal requirements for the University to engage tribal councils, communities, businesses, and local residents in development plans for any of the University's land holdings.

As an organization that represents descendants of Alaska's original land caretakers, the Hoonah Indian Association stands opposed to State of Alaska proposals that are little more than attempts to acquire federal public land and assets at federal taxpayer expense.

In areas traditionally occupied and used by various groups of Native people, some with yet unresolved issues of land ownership, the proposed legislation would allow the University of Alaska access to federal and state lands of cultural, environmental and economic significance including wildlands in the Tongass National Forest. We notice that several parcels listed on the U of A Land Grant List of 2005 Parcel Descriptions for Northern S.E. Alaska identify properties significant to the Tlingit people of this region that are currently managed by the State of Alaska. In addition, some lands to be selected from the Tongass National Forest are undoubtedly areas with cultural and economic value related to their customary and traditional use. Some include the sites of former village locations and the graves and cemeteries of ancestors, from whom the land was previously procured.

The Hoonah Indian Association is strongly opposed to the passage of any legislation that grants state or federal public land to the University of Alaska. We specifically request that language repealing public process be added back in the University's land management requirements. We seriously encourage the University to secure more reliable sources of revenue from more responsible and ecologically sound alternatives.

The Hoonah Indian Association appreciates the opportunity to go on record with these comments.

Sincerely,

Frank Wright Jr.
President

Brandon Maitlen

From: Dave Belton [naturalresources@hiatribe.org]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2005 11:23 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Cc: Rep. Ralph Samuels
Subject: HB 130: University Lands
Attachments: U of A Lands.doc

Dear Rep. Ramras,

Please include these comments into the Record of Testimony regarding University Lands bill; HB130.

Thank you,

David M. Belton
Director of Cultural and Natural Resources
Hoonah Indian Association
P.O. Box 602
Hoonah, Alaska 99829
(907) 945-3545

ndon Maitlen

From: Greg Streveler [grigori@gustavus.ak.us]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2005 3:51 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: University Lands

Dear Representative Ramras:

I am so grateful and relieved that the House Resources Committee decided to remove some parcels, and particularly the Baranof Warm Springs parcel, from the University Lands bill. Thank you!

Yours truly,

Judy Brakel, Box 94, Gustavus, AK 99826

Brandon Maitlen

From: Doris Bailey [dorie@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2005 5:06 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 130

Representative Ramras, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me extra time during my testimony today. I apologize for my emotion but this has been a very personal and important issue for me and for many of my constituents. I am sorry I didn't quite have time to get all the issues addressed as I wanted but you did receive my comments in writing which was important to me. Please take note of my comments about Middle Island and Lisianski Point when you take the final vote on the floor. Thank you again for your kindness in extending the time for me.

Doris Bailey
dorie@gci.net

There are three truths: my truth, your truth, and the truth. -Chinese proverb

Brandon Maitlen

From: Doris Bailey [dorie@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2005 5:18 PM
To: Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Jim Elkins; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Mary Kapsner; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Ralph Samuels; Rep. Paul Seaton
Cc: Rep. Peggy Wilson; Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: HB 130

Thank you so much for allowing me to testify for the City and Borough of Sitka today and also for allowing me some extra time for that testimony. This is an issue which has been very emotional and personal for me and also for many of my constituents. I appreciate the work you have done on this bill and appreciate more than I indicated the difficulties of the issues. Thank you for reading the hard copy of my comments which were faxed to you and once again thank you for the opportunity of testifying.

Doris Bailey
dorie@gci.net

There are three truths: my truth, your truth, and the truth. -Chinese proverb

London Maitlen

From: Claude Odell [lfcak@ptialaska.net]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2005 6:34 PM
To: Rep. Peggy Wilson
Subject: Re: HB 130 Update

Rep. Peggy Wilson wrote:

> Hello Everyone,

>

>

>

> I want to keep you updated on what is happening with HB 130,
> University Land Grant. There is a Committee Substitute for HB 130
> drafted that will be presented in the Resources Committee meeting
> today, 3/4/05 at 1:00 pm. I would like to thank all of my constituents
> that have taken the time to call in, e-mail and write letters
> providing your viewpoints on the bill. I think that the process has
> worked and there are some changes that have been incorporated into the
> bill.

>

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>

> They have identified seven parcels that will be removed from the
> conveyance. They are listed below.

>

- > 1. Parcel Number CS.DI.1001.Duke Island;
- > 2. Parcel Number CS.kI.1001, Kelp Island;
- > 3. Parcel Number JU.LM.1001, Lena Creek;
- > 4. Parcel Number KT.1004, Neets Creek;
- > 5. Parcel Number MA.KR.1001, Kodiak Rocket Range;
- > 6. Parcel Number PA.1001, Port Alexander;
- > 7. Parcel Number ST.1002, Warm Springs Bay.

>

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> Please continue to watch as things unfold in the legislature and
> continue to provide me with your opinions.

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> Thank you,

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> Peggy

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Dear Peggy,

Thanks for the emails on current happenings on HB130. I see that after Doris Bailey spoke to the House Natural Resources Committee that Warm Springs and PA got excluded. I

sure would like to see the Pelican area to be excluded in the same way. 99% of the people in Lisianski Inlet are totally against the allotment of land going to the U of A. Please do your best for us local yokals without much say in the big city.

Thanks Again,

Claude K. Odell
29 year resident of Pelican

Brandon Maitlen

From: Doris Bailey [dorie@gci.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2005 8:18 AM
To: Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Jim Elkins; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Mary Kapsner; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Ralph Samuels; Rep. Paul Seaton; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Albert Kookesh
Cc: John C. Breseman; John C. Breseman
Subject: Fw: HB130

To whom it may concern,

Hi,

I tried to send a letter concerning this matter the other day and lost service, so will try again.

It is quite obvious that this bill's future effects have not been thoroughly thought through and the public was not included at an early enough stage to comment before some people are trying to railroad it through.

I have lived in Pelican all of my life since 1954 and can see where this bill can and will create serious consequences in this area if passed, mostly negative.

It will definitely contradict with rural residences subsistence, recreational, etc...rights.

I strongly believe there should be no further land distributions by federal or state government whatsoever until the previous ones are settled and finalized.

"It's been 45 years since statehood and 33 years since passage of ANCSA and repeal of the (Alaska Native Land) Allotment Act. Yet under current law and procedures we were at least 20 years from seeing these conveyance completed, and by some estimates maybe 85 years or longer away from Alaskans gaining the land that is rightfully theirs," said Murkowski.

"This land transfer is incredibly important for Alaska Natives politically, economically and culturally. We were promised these lands a long time ago and these 45,000 acres are a step to reclaiming what is rightfully ours," said Chris McNeil, Jr., Sealaska President and CEO.

The Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act also authorizes the federal government to allocate a total of AT LEAST 200,000 ACRES.

I personally have submitted a 190 acre native allotment claim in the Lisianski Inlet area near Pelican, Alaska.

The above quotes are from the Sealaska Shareholder newsletter dated February 2005.

BIA I believe still has billions of dollars missing that should be another matter settled before land distributions so native who deserve that monies could also have the option of buying these lands.

I hereby request a copy of a map of these selected areas be sent to me if anyone has access to one. Thank you.

I do not have a lot of people's addresses but request people forward this to anyone they believe might be concerned. I don't have Albert Kookesh's address and all the letters I have read about HB130 I am amazed I haven't seen his name?

Sincerely, John C. Breseman
Box 52 Salmon Way
Pelican, Alaska 99832

jbpelicanak@hotmail.com
clifford@ptialaska.net
907-735-2277

LETTERS TO CITY MANAGER
CITY COUNCIL

Stacy Kittama

From: Ron and Nan Schonenbach [ronnan@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 4:40 PM
To: clerk@gustavus-ak.gov; mayor@gustavus-ak.gov; jcozzi@haines.ak.us; jmedina@hoonah.net;
 city_clerk@ci.juneau.ak.us; mgr@borough.ketchikan.ak.us; clerk@ci.petersburg.ak.us;
 saxcity@ptalaska.net; saxman_city_clerk@yahoo.com; colleen@cityofsitka.com;
 daryekdd@aokcom.gci.net; cityclerk@aptalaska.net; cbyman@starband.net; yakclerk@starband.net;
 mayor@city.ketchikan.ak.us; m.harris@skagway.org; cityofib@aptalaska.net
Subject: SB 96/HB 130 University Land Bill

Hello,

Based on the testimony which this bill has received there are certainly some land ownership issues for SE communities to consider. The last 25 years I worked for DNR and the last five years I served as the SE Regional Land Manager for the Div. of Mining, Land and Water so I am very familiar with land boundaries and DNR Area Plans. I am pleased to have worked with many individuals from all the communities over the years.

The legislation which the governor introduced has huge impacts on SE and I clearly do not believe the communities are served by this bill. I have attached the letter I recently sent to Rep. Jay Ramras which states my viewpoints. The governor, DNR and the U of A are working on a revision based on testimony. The bill will be back for testimony on March 2. If your community is involved then please contact the gov. office or your representative. The maps are available for viewing on the DNR website. Proposed land is within or near the communities of Haines, Juneau, Pelican, Tenakee, Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell, Coffman, Thome Bay, and Ketchikan.

Any support you can give to change the bill and reduce land in SE, particularly land classified Settlement, Public Recreation or Wildlife Habitat would be appreciated. Please email or call (789-2028) if you have any questions.

Thanks, Ron Schonenbach

copy

February 19, 2005

Representative Jay Ramras
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: SB 96/HB 130 University Land Bill

Dear Representative Ramras,

After reviewing the maps contained in the University of Alaska Land Grant List of 2005 I'm not surprised to see why there is so much controversy from individuals and communities. Last year I retired from DNR after working as a land manager for 25 years within the SE Regional Office. Having been involved with the selection of these lands from the Tongass National Forest I have an intimate knowledge of DNR's land base in Southeast. I wish to point out some issues for your consideration.

DNR and the University have worked very closely to come up with a statewide list of parcels at the Governor's request. SB 7 from 2000 is clearly flawed and SB96/HB 130 is an attempt to fix the legislation by generating a specific list of parcels. This approach is reasonable but the parcel list must be altered to serve the public's need.

The current list contains 44 southeast properties (40,114 acres) scattered from Ketchikan to Juneau that from a geographic standpoint will be costly to manage. The list encompasses land for settlement, general use and public recreation as identified in DNR's Area Plans.

Observations

- The assumption that land will generate substantial money to fund University programs is flawed. DNR has already sold the most desirable land in southeast and the land pool has also been further reduced by land conveyances to the municipalities, the first settlement agreement to the University and to the Mental Health Trust Land Office. An endowment fund or appropriation is a more sensible way to achieve financial stability along with legislation that conveys a smaller land base.
- DNR's Area Plans undergo intense public scrutiny during a two-year development process. The commissioner's approval of these plans provides classification and management intent for state land. DNR should focus on selling Settlement land for their land disposal programs that have received additional legislative funding in recent years. Additionally, Public Recreation lands should not be part of the land package as these lands have unique public values. Once conveyed to the University the Public Recreation classification becomes meaningless and the public who was assured by DNR that the land would be used for public recreation purposes is betrayed and public trust and confidence in DNR is eroded. One example is the 1,358 acres at Lynn Canal, more commonly called Lynn Sisters. This parcel is classified as

A Baranof Warm Springs is one of these. It's land use classification is "RU" - recreation undeveloped - 2002 S.F. Area plan

Public Recreation and is identified as a future State Marine Park. This land would complement St. James Bay State Marine Park a few miles to the north that is heavily used and has a great public use cabin. There are also several parcels that have a Wildlife Habitat classification along with either Settlement or General Use. DNR should continue to hold all Wildlife Habitat lands.

By regulation DNR can only sell land classified as Settlement whereas the classifications have no relevance upon conveyance to the University. Less than 5% of the land is classified Settlement and even a smaller percentage is truly developable after accounting for steep terrain, muskeg and anadromous streams. While DNR has not included any Settlement lands proposed for sale within the next five years, they can ill afford the loss of any Settlement land if the legislature desires DNR to continue with a long-term land disposal program.

- Removal of Selected Land Harris River Junction (320 acres) should not be under consideration as the Commissioner's approval of the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan concurred with the relinquishment of this selection. This selection as well as several others are only selected and have not been conveyed from the federal government.
- Maps in the Land Grant List In some cases the parcel encompasses all of the state land in a specific area. In over 50% of the cases, the parcel represents only that land in the pool and gives no recognition to adjacent private or remaining state land. The legislature and the public cannot evaluate or visualize these fragmented ownership patterns without seeing adjacent private and state lands. A look at these maps leads one to believe that all surrounding land is Tongass National Forest, that is not the case. A good example is Thorne Bay containing four separate tracts of 2,557 acres. This map does not aid in understanding fractured ownership boundaries that will occur. The problem is compounded by the fact that DNR will issue a quitclaim deed for the land; this action does not require a land survey on the ground.
- Acreage The 250-260,000 acre figure has been tossed around for years. While the University obviously wants the maximum acreage possible there is no reason that the Governor cannot reduce this acreage and remove from the pool the controversial parcels or select additional parcels if parcels must be dropped and the 260,000 acre figure maintained. Due to controversy surrounding this legislation there is no compelling reason to fast track this bill.

Recommendations

- Remove from the pool all land classified Settlement, Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat. Settlement lands are essential for DNR to continue with their land disposal program. Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat lands are identified for specific, unique values and must continue to be managed by DNR. Elimination of these lands will aid the University by having fewer scattered parcels to manage.

Baranof
warm springs

- Remove from the pool land approved for relinquishment and land selected but not yet conveyed.
- Request that DNR produce a corrected set of maps showing state and private land surrounding the selected parcels.

I would appreciate your efforts to consider these revisions and to share my letter with other committee members. Please contact me if you wish to discuss any of the issues.

Sincerely,

Ron Schonenbach

16435A Pt. Lena Loop Road, Juneau 99801

789-2028

cc: Governor Murkowski
Commissioner Tom Irwin



**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE**
201 KATLIAN STREET, SUITE 200A
SITKA, AK 99835
Phone: 747-6276 Fax: 747-5807
Email: sitka_lio@legis.state.ak.us

DATE: Mar 4, 2005

TO: House Resources Committee

FAX: 5 pages, including cover sheet

FROM: Sitka Constituents

MESSAGE: To be included for Public Testimony on HB 130



**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE**
201 Katlian Street, Suite 200A, Sitka, AK 99835
Phone: 747-6276 Fax: 747-5807
Email: sitka_lio@legis.state.ak.us

DATE: Mar 4, 2005
TO: House Resources Comm
FAX: 465-2070 3 pages including cover sheet

FROM: Sitka Constituent
MESSAGE: Please include for public testimony for HB 130.

Signe Wilson
P. O. Box 587
Sitka, Alaska 99835

March 4, 2005

House Resources Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 130 University Land bill. There must be other ways of funding the University of Alaska other than land sales. Legislative action should be introduced to change this from a land grant to a state funded university.

As a forty-five year resident of Sitka, I've seen the negative impact of the Alaska Mental Health Lands selections. There was no public awareness during the selection of these lands yet the bid process through which the sales are held virtually prohibits the average local citizen from ever acquiring any of these lands. The end result is the State receives the inflated income, the local residents suffer higher property assessments and taxes and loss of public use areas.

In reviewing the Southeast selections, each community would suffer a tremendous loss of use by placing these lands in private ownership. Although I live in Sitka, we travel to many of these communities and personally use the areas selected. Mite Cove on Yakobi Island is a small but important anchorage for cruisers and fishermen. A true last haven for folks heading to the fishing grounds. It would also be the only anchorage for the owners of the selected lands virtually eliminating or, in the least, severely restricting it for public use. The other properties near Pelican should be transferred to the city of Pelican so they can determine the use.

The Tenakee selection near the harbor is the only public beach area readily accessible by locals and visitors. Trail access to the public recreation area, the river and private lands is through the selected area. This is also one of the main berry picking areas for locals.


One of the most magical places to explore in Warm Springs Bay is the salt water lagoon. This should always remain public. Other lands in the area should be left as they are until the Southeast Transportation Plan is settled.

In our local Sitka area, residents have always shown a preference to leaving the lands for public use. With one of the largest harbor systems in the state, residents use these lands year round for recreation, subsistence and its scenic values.

The Lisianski Peninsula selection surrounds a Native allotment. Commercial development of the proposed selection would, in all probability, significantly increase the monetary value of the Native land. Money, money, money is what it is all about, right? Not in this case, the owners of the allotment operate a fish camp where they teach the traditional Native subsistence and cultural activities to Sitka youth and young adults as a way of bringing order to their, sometimes troubled, lives. This unique approach has succeeded where other more conventional means has failed. This same projected commercial development surrounding their camp would destroy the isolated Native camp environment essential to the success of their program. It is unthinkable that anyone would knowingly do anything that would bring harm to this grass roots effort to help our young people.

Local citizens in all areas should have the opportunity to help determine land uses that affect them and not be bulldozed by the very folks that were voted in to represent their interests.

Sincerely,



Signe Wilson

Brandon Maitlen

From: Cliff Lobaugh [cdlobaugh@gci.net]

Sent: Friday, March 04, 2005 7:32 AM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: University land grab

I oppose the University of Alaska land grab as it deals with Southeast Alaska and the lack of hearings before the lands were considered. This seems like a rushed deal to the public and poorly put together.

Cliff Lobaugh
3340 Fritz Cove Rd.
Juneau, Ak 99801

Brandon Maitlen

From: Jeanne' [31lesh36@silveridge.com]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2005 6:51 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 130

FUNDING THE UNIVERSITY—HB 130

We must all question why this land grant proposal became the mechanism as a funding source for the University of Alaska. The manner in which this issue has been driven, without public hearings, suggests another agenda is being served. We have \$30 billion in our Permanent Fund; why wasn't this resource considered as one writer suggested? This is a statewide issue, the solution should be shared by everyone and every generation.

It is the people's responsibility to mandate appropriate action through our elected representatives, we hope our voices are heard. In my judgment, the best solution means a contribution from our PFDs. This income is a great windfall, we did not earn it. What better way to demonstrate our direct support for a worthy program? If we do not accept this reasoning, why should we direct a land grant solution to targeted regions to solve this problem?

According to Joe Beedle's testimony, if these lots were sold, the university would realize about \$5 billion annually. Our permanent fund dividends could be reduced by 1% and match that amount.

There may be regions that would opt for a land grant. So be it; some of us want out of this option. We want the right to determine paths to a vision of our area's development.

Bob Lesher
PO Box 3
Pelican, Alaska 99832
907 735 2276

Brandon Maitlen

From: Sally McGuire [chilkootmcguire@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, March 04, 2005 6:09 AM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: University Lands Bill

Dear Members of House Resources Committee, I understand that today you are again taking up HB 130. This is a very thinly disguised piece of legislation designed to remove public oversight from the process of transferring our public lands to private developers. I understand that you are no doubt being strongly lobbied by our Governor and by University personnel to pass this legislation pretty much as is. However, your responsibility is to us, the citizens of Alaska, not to give our lands away without our permission, and not to undermine the public process. This bill if passed will become as potent an issue as the coalbed methane issue was last year, which even resulted in one legislator having to resign. The individual parcels are most of them very controversial, and the overall intent to "streamline" the University's funding stream is an attempt to remove our basic right to determine the fate of our own lands. This bill must be rejected. Thank you, Sally McGuire

Brandon Maitlen

From: Alaska Passages [info@alaskapassages.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2005 7:08 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Cc: Rep. Ralph Samuels
Subject: House Bill 130, when will it go away??

Dear Representative Ramras;

Yesterday in the hearing for House Bill 130 you reiterated your concern that part of your mission was to get public lands into private hands. I understand that this is important to you. I understand how little private land is available in Alaska.

House Bill 130 is not a homesite bill however. It is about realizing a profit for lands that at this time are being held in trust by the State for all Alaskans, and giving that money to the University.

Joe Beedle has told me that even if most of the land is sold after about 20 years, the profit would only represent about 1% of the annual budget for the University. It seems like that small profit does not offset all the concerns that have been expressed about the disposal of these lands, particularly in Southeast Alaska.

In particular, I am concerned about the remote sites that are designated in the Southeast Area Plan as "Ru" or meant for undeveloped recreation. I spoke with Bob Loeffler today, and he indicated that the land use designations in the Area Plans represent several years worth of extensive research at some expense to the State. It seems arbitrary and irresponsible to overturn the land use designations to develop those lands. That is exactly what will happen if House Bill 130 goes through. The land then becomes private, and the public has no legal recourse over how that land is developed.

You said that there was "No Walmart going up" on the land in Kodiak, but there also would be nothing stopping that from happening. Once the University sells the land, it loses control over it too. The university is not going to want to hang on to the land and manage it. They need to realize a profit from the sales.

Some of the lands designated "Ru" include Warm Springs Bay, part of Port Alexander's Back Lagoon, Sanford Cove in Endicott Arm, Whitney Island near Cape Fanshaw, and Read Island near Farragut Bay. Most of those names may be unfamiliar to you. They are remote parcels used mostly by local residents and visitors who use these places for hunting, subsistence, and recreation. According to Bob Loeffler, these "Ru" lands represent about 2088 acres. Perhaps one way to mitigate the opposition to House Bill 130 would be to remove those lands from consideration.

I appreciate the time that House Resources is giving to House Bill 130. I hope that the Bill can be modified to address the considerable opposition that has been voiced.

Thank You,
Julie Hursey
Petersburg, Alaska

Brandon Maitlen

From: Dave Lacey [dlacey@mosquitonet.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2005 5:08 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 130

Rep. Ramras,

Re: HB 130

This is bad legislation in that it takes public land out of the public process. The University does not need to be in the land management business as that is not its forte or focus. DNR is better prepared to manage land. There is no logical reason to give the University land to manage except to force it into some boomer type moves to generate fast cash that will not be best for things in the long run. The legislature needs to address the University funding out of the general funds of the state. Education is important and we do not need to be playing these kinds of games with it.

Thanks,

Dave Lacey
PO Box 81765
Fairbanks, AK 99708-1765

Brandon Maitlen

From: Rick Fleischman [Capt-Rick@soundsailing.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2005 4:46 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Ralph Samuels; Rep. Jim Elkins; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Mary Kapsner; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Sen. Bert Stedman

Subject: Insightfull, New look at HB 130

Kill Bill 130

Co-chairs Ramras and Samuels and Committee Members,

I hope to testify at your hearing tomorrow on HB 130 but suspect there will be a long line and our cell coverage here in the bay is sometimes weak. To ensure that you don't have to suffer the indignity of not hearing my testimony I will email this as well.

Movie producer Quentin Tarantino should film his next sequel here in Alaska—"Kill Bill 130".

During Wednesday's House Resource meeting Chairman Ramras characterized opposition to the bill as complaints by "people who don't want to pay for it but don't want others to have it". This is simply not true. The public concern is that several inappropriate parcels of land will be transferred to the University of Alaska in this bill. The community of Baranof is not anti-development. Lots are available for sale in the townsite and new property owners have building plans for the near future.

There was no opportunity for public input into the selection of lands to be transferred. The governor did not consult the affected communities when he put this bill together. Discussions between DNR and the University were not open to the public. I commend your committee for taking the only public testimony on the bill. I calculate the total time allotted for public comments as 23/1000 of a second per acre (and that includes time for potty breaks).

Chairman Ramras has taken pains to describe the University as a kind, understanding landlord and steward for the public good. The time for the warm and fuzzy university property managers to discuss their plans for our communities is now—before the state transfers ownership to them and they become the 800-pound hairy gorilla (with bad breath). The 276-acre parcel here in Baranof will engulf the 20-acre townsite. There has been no opportunity for community concerns to be heard and answered regarding water quality, damage to our fragile hotspots, and development around the salt chuck.

In 2002 DNR spent time and money developing its Area Land Plan. The land to be transferred in Warm Springs Bay is classified as "RU". "RU" (not to be confused with FUBAR) is defined by DNR as "Public Recreation and Tourism Undeveloped". The management intent, as the plan states for the land in question, is "to be retained by the state and managed to protect the warm springs, maintain the natural resources/scenic value of the parcel, and ensure continuation of its use for dispersed recreation".

DNR spokesman Bob Loeffler testified to the committee that all lands in SE selected for the transfer are classified for development. This is not the case in Baranof. The state did a

multi-year Area Land Plan utilizing public input and concluded in 2002 that this property should be preserved by the state for undeveloped public recreation. Three years into the 20-year plan the governor announces, with no advance warning or public input, that the same land is now a perfect piece to grant to the University for "development". Loeffler further testified that the carefully studied intents and classification of the 2002 Area Land Plan will no longer apply upon the land's transfer to the University.

The process by which this land-grab bill has evolved is shameful. It evokes images of shady wheelers and dealers in dark, smoke-filled rooms, drawing and redrawing lines on maps with no regard to established communities, public opinion, and in the case of Baranof, contradicting the state's own management intent.

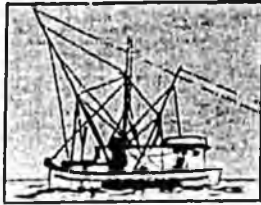
The Sitka Assembly voted unanimously to oppose HB 130, which transfers large areas within the borough of Sitka to the University. The public testimony heard by the House Resource Committee has been unanimously opposed to the bill. Other citizens are protesting just as vigorously about problems this bill will cause in their communities and recreational areas. I urge the House Resources Committee to seriously consider the public opposition to this bill. House Bill 130 must be modified extensively so that the public maintains some control of the public land in their communities. At a minimum, the parcels of land classed as RU should not be included with the transfer.

Thank you for your time!

Rick Fleischman
1802 B Alder Way
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-7473

Capt-Rick@soundsailing.com

Note: I am currently caretaking at the Baranof Wilderness Lodge in Warm Springs bay and can be reached by cell phone at (206) 605-8363.



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward St., No. 211
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-9400
(907) 586-4473 Fax

February 20, 2005

Chairman Jay Ramras
Chairman Ralph Samuels
House Resources Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Ramras and Representative Samuels:

The Alaska Trollers Association strongly opposes the transfer of the Neets Creek parcel, KT.1004, from Alaska Department of Natural Resources to the University of Alaska Board of Regents under HB 130.

Development of the lands at Neets Creek, which have been nominated for transfer to the University of Alaska, could negatively impact hatchery operations that are dependent on this watershed for incubation and rearing of salmon. Our fear is a degradation of water quality and quantity, both which are essential to maintaining a healthy hatchery program.

Southern Southeast Alaska Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) is a regional aquaculture corporation funded through a 3% enhancement tax paid by commercial salmon fishermen. SSRAA currently operates the Neets Bay Hatchery, which has a long and distinguished record of producing high value salmon returns for both commercial and sport salmon fishermen throughout the Southeast region. The commercial troll fleet, from Yakutat to Ketchikan, derives significant benefit from the salmon produced at Neets Bay hatchery.

ATA feels strongly that the benefits accrued from the salmon produced at the Neets Bay Hatchery far outweigh the risks that could be associated with new development in the vital Neets Creek watershed. We would appreciate your support to retain Neets Creek parcel KT.1004 under state ownership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Kelley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dale Kelley
Executive Director

John H. Littlefield
POB 2212
4102 Halibut Point Road
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-6866 voice
907-738-6866 cell

Co-Chair Representative Ramras
House Resources Committee

Re: HB130

Dear Representative Ramras,

I will be traveling tomorrow, and will be unable to testify on House bill 130 however, I do want my remarks noted for the record.

The Littlefield family is the owner of a certified 160 acre native allotment on Lisianski Peninsula near Sitka. It seems certain that developing the Lisianski Peninsula will increase our property value. While that seems like good news, it is at best a mixed blessing. As have many, many residents testified against this bill, I think I need to add my voice to the committee process as well. City and Borough of Sitka Assembly member, Doris Bailey, has adequately expressed my concerns with the land transfers around Lisianski Peninsula and Sitka from a personal basis. I submit these additional comments more as a matter of process. I have expressed some of these thoughts to my legislators, Peggy Wilson, and Bert Stedman.

1. I support the University of Alaska, and believe most Alaskans share that opinion.
2. I support the State of Alaska's efforts to make land available to the public.
3. I believe in a transparent public process, to accomplish both of these items as well as other work of the people.

House Bill 130 has combined two distinct items into a single action. I believe the actions should be debated on their merits separately. I believe that most Alaskans support the University and if they don't they should. If long-term funding for the University is our goal, then we should investigate ALL funding options. House Bill 130 has identified a problem, long-term funding of the University, and selected granting highly questionable parcels of land to the University as the only solution. The problem and solution in this case are not necessarily compatible or desirable to many.

All Alaskans should share in the burden of funding the University. I have several suggestions on how they could do that and I'm sure there are others.

1. We don't have to look much farther than the permanent fund for a long-term funding solution to many of the University's needs. My last information indicated there was about \$30 billion in the permanent fund. I am not an accountant, but I would suggest that an endowment to the University of approximately \$500 million would go a long ways toward ensuring economic stability for the University. The University's annual income would of course, vary by the amount of the endowment, but this amount would dwarf the existing endowment fund and generate real dollars immediately for the University. The exact amount of the necessary endowment could easily be calculated by an accountant. I realize that many other Universities have several billions of dollars in their endowments. We'll get there one of these days and much faster if we jump start the endowment with a large cash infusion.

2. Secondly, I would recommend that lands granted to the University should be selected from the North Slope or other areas where the likelihood of getting long-term returns from gas, oil, or minerals is very likely. The University needs annual income. Returns from gas, oil, and minerals can provide that for many years. All Alaskans together owned the State lands. But there's a great difference between lands that are valuable for mineral, gas, and oil development and remotely located and lands that are similar, but close to existing communities. Land selections near existing communities, disproportionately affect the local citizens more so than the rest of the State residents. Much of the lands that have been selected in Southeast have little value to the University other than the income that would be derived from a sale. The sales would generate a onetime deposit to the University's endowment fund and will not generate annual income. It will also generate a great amount of dissatisfaction from the local residents.

3. There is a process already in place to get land to the University. These programs are subject to public scrutiny at this time. This is the preferred method to dispose of public lands. It may take a little longer, but the public is better served when everyone has their input in the final decisions are made. If the University owns these lands they will not have to answer to the public when they dispose of these lands. In fact, as a private owner, the University could completely pave over all of these lands if they wished. Sound preposterous? Probably so, but we have no guaranty they won't. Remember that the solutions to the long term funding of the University are just that, long-term. They do not need to be solved today. Further the legislature could direct the DNR to speed up the existing process while still honoring the public process.

What would I like you to do? I would like you to simply kill or table this bill. It is not so timely, that the funding issues cannot be fully debated and the full range of alternatives presented for discussion. A new bill (or several) could easily address these issues.

Thank you for your consideration,

John H. Littlefield
907-738-6866

Brandon Maitlen

From: Tom Paul / Jan Caulfield [tomjan@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2005 9:52 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 130 Univ. Lands bill

Dear Representative Ramras,

I am writing to ask you to oppose House Bill 130, "University Land Grant/State Forest" and the companion SB 96 in their current form. I am a former city clerk, city council member, and mayor of Port Alexander and although I live in Juneau now, I have owned property in Port Alexander for 30 years.

This bill could have been a very positive solution to the funding needs of the University, and one that may have been well-received throughout the state. But the current version only creates animosity toward the University and the State and does not achieve its purpose.

I will address the bill's problems specifically in regard to Port Alexander, but from the breadth of opposition this bill has generated, I am sure these points apply to other communities as well. The bill suffers from:

- 1) Undemocratic public process with little or no public notice and a "fast track" approach to legislation. Even though you (the Legislature) have been conducting open public hearings on this legislation, a few days or weeks of legislative hearings in Juneau does not substitute for full public notice and debate, and the involvement of communities. I fear small communities especially, may not get consideration equal to the larger communities like Kodiak or Ketchikan who have legislators who live in the community.
- 2) Shoddy preliminary work, if any, by DNR and the University of Alaska to determine if the lands designated by the bill actually meet the university's needs - For example: including a portion of Port Alexander's community watershed in designated lands, as well as low-value, poorly accessible muskeg, and land extremely important to local citizen's recreation and subsistence use. DNR's designation of land in a "development" category is no guarantee that it is suitable for development, and does not mean that the community agreed with DNR's classification during the area plan process. Port Alexander's waterline and other water supply structures were in place long before DNR selected the land from the Forest Service for "community expansion". This is simply poor planning on the part of DNR.
- 3) A seeming disregard for the effect of the lands transfer on individual communities and the compatibility of the ultimate uses of the University land to the communities' Comprehensive Plans - For example: the 250+ acres designated for transfer in Port Alexander are double the size of the existing community footprint. Other communities like Thoms Place would be even more subsumed by the transfer of thousands of acres of surrounding land to the University. One can only imagine the hard-hearted cynicism that those in the administration must have in designing this bill, knowing that many of the timbered lands proposed for transfer in Southeast Alaska adjacent to communities (whole hillsides surrounding Thoms Place, Pelican, Baranof Warm Springs, and possibly Tenakee Springs) will likely be logged by the University or its surrogates to generate income.

While it is no secret, or sin, that this administration and many other Alaskans champion exploitation of more resources, it seems that in a state this size that could be achieved without purposely trashing someone's viewshed or transforming a community's character against the will of its citizens. I wonder, would you welcome clearcuts around your remote residence? Port Alexander and other remote communities are inhabited by people who purpose.y choose to live in minimally developed areas. Undoubtedly there are some communities, founded and still existing on logging and other resource exploitation, that may indeed welcome such activity. If so, then those are the ones where University land disposals should be concentrated.

- 4) Few protections for the communities - Despite assurances, the University has no obligation to work with the communities when developing or disposing of these lands. Like the Mental Health Trust lands, University lands are intended to provide income. With profit paramount, all other considerations and good intentions typically fall by the wayside. Towns or unincorporated communities without zoning authority are particularly vulnerable.

I believe that a similar bill could be designed that does not threaten the character or environment of communities, and that does not make the University and the citizens of much of the state, immediate (and possibly permanent) adversaries. But such a bill would require time and dedication to a thorough, open, and inclusive process. HB 130 and SB 96 were not developed with that process, but by the administration behind closed doors.

The proper way to develop this bill and engage the public in an open and democratic process would have been for the Dept. of Natural Resources and the University to first approach communities with lands being considered for transfer and ask if they supported the transfer of all or part of those lands. Not all communities in Alaska are alike. Some like Coffman Cove (and many Southcentral Alaska communities) are supportive of University land ownership in their community, whereas some, like Port Alexander, Thoms Place, Tenakee Springs, Warm Springs and Pelican, are against it. Oftentimes a simple review of a community's Comprehensive Plan would indicate whether or not there is compatibility. Why not concentrate University land selections in and around those communities that are supportive? For instance, why not switch contentious lands in Southeast Alaska for those in Southcentral Alaska which would likely be more welcomed by the populace? Or allow selection of current State Forest lands where logging is already approved. It seems to me that if you force citizens of communities into a relationship they do not want to have and on terms that offend them, you sow the seeds of long-lived antagonism and create a potential for lawsuits and other opposition.

The Legislature needs to be more open to changing this bill to improve it. In the face of overwhelming opposition by many communities who are affected, the Legislature should not simply be satisfied to "shine the light" on a bad bill and pass it anyway without substantive changes. I ask you to work for the people and not simply for the administration and University. Please remove from this bill the lands in Port Alexander, Baranof Warm Springs, Tenakee, Pelican, Thoms Place, and other communities where there is overwhelming objection and substitute other lands elsewhere for them.

Thank you for your public service and for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Tom Paul, 525 W 9th St., Juneau, Alaska 99801
And: 2 Rue de Bearhunter, Port Alexander, AK 99836

Melinda Hofstad
PO Box 1030
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

907-772-3880

Facimile

To: Rep. Jim Elkins
From: Melinda Hofstad
Date: February 27, 2005
Re: HB 130
Pages: 12 including cover

**PLEASE MAKE SURE REP. ELKINS HAS THIS BEFORE THE
WEDNESDAY RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING ON HB 130**

Jim, This was given to my by Paul Anderson of the Petersburg City Council today. This is from Paul Schonenbach, who just retired as the 5 year SE Regional Land Manager of DNR. He was the one in charge of the DNR's Area Plans. This is really the heart of the problem with HB 130, very good information. Please help us get Baranof out of this legislation. Thanks, Melinda

Jim - I also included some
other excellent points.
My understanding is Baranof
is still in - please help us get
it out before it leaves Resources.
Melinda Peggy will be
there too!

City of Haines
CITY COUNCIL

Stacy Rittama

From: Ron and Nan Schonenbach [ronnan@gcl.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 4:40 PM
To: clerk@gustavus-ak.gov; mayor@gustavus-ak.gov; jcozzi@haines.ak.us; jmedina@hoonah.net;
 city_clerk@cl.juneau.ak.us; mgr@borough.ketchikan.ak.us; clerk@cl.petersburg.ak.us;
 saxcity@ptalaska.net; saxman_city_clerk@yahoo.com; colleen@cityofsitka.com;
 daryakdd@aolcom.gcl.net; cityclerk@aptalaska.net; cbyman@starband.net; yakclerk@starband.net;
 mayor@city.ketchikan.ak.us; m.harris@skagway.org; cityofhb@aptalaska.net
Subject: SB 86/HB 130 University Land Bill

Hello,

Based on the testimony which this bill has received there are certainly some land ownership issues for SE communities to consider. The last 25 years I worked for DNR and the last five years I served as the SE Regional Land Manager for the Div. of Mining, Land and Water so I am very familiar with land boundaries and DNR Area Plans. I am pleased to have worked with many individuals from all the communities over the years.

The legislation which the governor introduced has high impacts on SE and I clearly do not believe the communities are served by this bill. I have attached the letter I recently sent to Rep. Jay Ramras which states my viewpoints. The governor, DNR and the U of A are working on a revision based on testimony. The bill will be back for testimony on March 2. If your community is involved then please contact the gov. office or your representative. The maps are available for viewing on the DNR website. Proposed land is within or near the communities of Haines, Juneau, Pelican, Tenakee, Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell, Coffman, Thome Bay, and Ketchikan.

Any support you can give to change the bill and reduce land in SE, particularly land classified Settlement, Public Recreation or Wildlife Habitat would be appreciate. Please email or call (789-2028) if you have any questions.

Thanks, Ron Schonenbach

copy

February 19, 2005

Representative Jay Ramras
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: SB 96/HB 130 University Land Bill

Dear Representative Ramras,

After reviewing the maps contained in the University of Alaska Land Grant List of 2005 I'm not surprised to see why there is so much controversy from individuals and communities. Last year I retired from DNR after working as a land manager for 25 years within the SE Regional Office. Having been involved with the selection of these lands from the Tongass National Forest I have an intimate knowledge of DNR's land base in Southeast. I wish to point out some issues for your consideration.

DNR and the University have worked very closely to come up with a statewide list of parcels at the Governor's request. SB 7 from 2000 is clearly flawed and SB96/HB 130 is an attempt to fix the legislation by generating a specific list of parcels. This approach is reasonable but the parcel list must be altered to serve the public's need.

The current list contains 44 southeast properties (40,114 acres) scattered from Ketchikan to Juneau that from a geographic standpoint will be costly to manage. The list encompasses land for settlement, general use and public recreation as identified in DNR's Area Plans

Observations

- > The assumption that land will generate substantial money to fund University programs is flawed. DNR has already sold the most desirable land in southeast and the land pool has also been further reduced by land conveyances to the municipalities, the first settlement agreement to the University and to the Mental Health Trust Land Office. An endowment fund or appropriation is a more sensible way to achieve financial stability along with legislation that conveys a smaller land base.
- > DNR's Area Plans undergo intense public scrutiny during a two-year development process. The commissioner's approval of these plans provides classification and management intent for state land. DNR should focus on selling Settlement land for their land disposal programs that have received additional legislative funding in recent years. Additionally, Public Recreation lands should not be part of the land package as these lands have unique public values. Once conveyed to the University the Public Recreation classification becomes meaningless and the public who was assured by DNR that the land would be used for public recreation purposes is betrayed and public trust and confidence in DNR is eroded. One example is the 1,358 acres at Lynn Canal, more commonly called Lynn Sisters. This parcel is classified as

R. Baranof Lynn Springs is one of these. It's land use classification is "RU" - recreation - undeveloped - 2002 S.F. area plan

Public Recreation and is identified as a future State Marine Park. This land would complement St. James Bay State Marine Park a few miles to the north that is heavily used and has a great public use cabin. There are also several parcels that have a Wildlife Habitat classification along with either Settlement or General Use. DNR should continue to hold all Wildlife Habitat lands.

By regulation DNR can only sell land classified as Settlement whereas the classifications have no relevance upon conveyance to the University. Less than 5% of the land is classified Settlement and even a smaller percentage is truly developable after accounting for steep terrain, muskeg and anadromous streams. While DNR has not included any Settlement lands proposed for sale within the next five years, they can ill afford the loss of any Settlement land if the legislature desires DNR to continue with a long-term land disposal program.

- Removal of Selected Land Harris River Junction (320 acres) should not be under consideration as the Commissioner's approval of the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan concurred with the relinquishment of this selection. This selection as well as several others are only selected and have not been conveyed from the federal government.
- Maps in the Land Grant List In some cases the parcel encompasses all of the state land in a specific area. In over 50% of the cases, the parcel represents only that land in the pool and gives no recognition to adjacent private or remaining state land. The legislature and the public cannot evaluate or visualize these fragmented ownership patterns without seeing adjacent private and state lands. A look at these maps leads one to believe that all surrounding land is Tongass National Forest, that is not the case. A good example is Thorne Bay containing four separate tracts of 2,557 acres. This map does not aid in understanding fractured ownership boundaries that will occur. The problem is compounded by the fact that DNR will issue a quitclaim deed for the land; this action does not require a land survey on the ground.
- Acreage The 250-260,000 acre figure has been tossed around for years. While the University obviously wants the maximum acreage possible there is no reason that the Governor cannot reduce this acreage and remove from the pool the controversial parcels or select additional parcels if parcels must be dropped and the 260,000 acre figure maintained. Due to controversy surrounding this legislation there is no compelling reason to fast track this bill.

Recommendations

- Remove from the pool all land classified Settlement, Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat. Settlement lands are essential for DNR to continue with their land disposal program. Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat lands are identified for specific, unique values and must continue to be managed by DNR. Elimination of these lands will aid the University by having fewer scattered parcels to manage.

*Bananob
Warm Springs*

- Remove from the pool land approved for relinquishment and land selected but not yet conveyed.
- Request that DNR produce a corrected set of maps showing state and private land surrounding the selected parcels.

I would appreciate your efforts to consider these revisions and to share my letter with other committee members. Please contact me if you wish to discuss any of the issues.

Sincerely,

Ron Schonenbach

16435A Pt. Lena Loop Road, Juneau 99801

789-2028

cc: Governor Murkowski
Commissioner Tom Irwin

Matthew Gruening
716 N Nordic Drive
Petersburg, Alaska 88933

March 1, 2005

Re: HB 130

Dear House Resources Committee:

The proposed land transfer in Baranof Warm Springs Bay directly undermines the existing DNR 2002 Northern SE Area Land Plan. This plan was the result of years of public planning, hearings, scientific studies, on-site visits to areas throughout SE Alaska, as well as hundred's of thousand's of precious state dollars. This comprehensive plan states that it shall be in effect for 20 years (until 2022). In this plan, the Baranof transfer in HB 130 is classified as "RU".

"RU" classification is "Public Recreation and Tourism Undeveloped: May be conveyed to Municipalities depending on the units management intent and the relative value of the recreation resources for which the unit was designated. These lands cannot be sold to individuals"

Management Intent:

Parcel B-32: "to be retained by the state and managed to protect the Warm Springs, maintain the natural resources/scenic value of the parcel, and ensure continuation of it's use for dispersed recreation."

DNR parcel B-33: "to be retained by the state and managed to protect the Salt lagoon, maintain the natural resources/scenic values of the parcel, and ensure continuation of it's use for dispersed recreation"

These 2 parcels are the majority of the proposed land transfer in Baranof Warm Springs included in HB 130. The remainder of the transfer is our public drinking water shed.

All bolded quotes, Northern SE Area Land Plan 2002

Please members of the Resource Committee, remove Baranof Warm Springs from this bill. It should have never been in this legislation in the first place. This makes a mockery out of DNR Land Use Plans which you, the Legislature, have funded and supported. Thank you.

Respectfully,


Matthew Gruening

Copy

NATHAN GRUENING
PO BOX 1030
PETERSBURG, ALASKA 99833

February 18, 2005

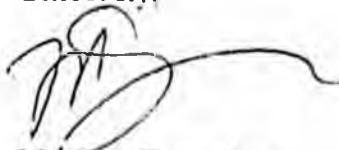
Dear Rep Elkins

I have lived for half of the year for my entire life (26 years) in Baranof Warm Springs Bay. I request that you remove Baranof from HB 130.

You have heard from others many reasons why and I will not repeat them. But you have not heard that the proposed land exchange at the top of Baranof River and Baranof Lake is our community drinking source. I for one do not want to drink water that has been gathered from below human sewage.

Please do not allow our water shed to be polluted. Remove the Baranof selection from HB 130.

Sincerely,



Nathan Gruening



March 1, 2005

Christine Lundstedt
479 Katlian Street
Sitka, Alaska

BaranofGeneral@yahoo.com

<<mailto:BaranofGeneral@yahoo.com>>

Copy

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative LeDoux,

This letter is to urge you to drop Baranof -Warm Springs Bay from HB130.

There are pressing and concrete reasons why Baranof Warm Springs should be excluded .

Tourism:

Baranof presently is already a very high use area, and a regular full day stop on the itinerary of all cruisers and commercial tour vessels in Southeast. No matter how glutted visitors are on Southeast beauty they always comment Warm Springs Bay is a jewel in a class of its own. At the Baranof General Store (I own it, my daughters run it) which is the de facto tourist information office, we hear this all day every day and began keeping a log of the commercial cruise boats last summer and discovered we are a very high use destination indeed with thousands of visitors every season. Of our state,s top three

industries, tourism today is the one with the most nearly unlimited potential. Visitors are thrilled by the pristine nature of Warm Springs Bay. Development, roads, buildings, ferry terminals in this wonderful bay would be a grim anachronism and a death knell for the bay as a destination and we certainly seem to have value in the Southeast tourism picture. This pristine beauty, the very reason people come to Alaska, is something you cannot create but it certainly is something easily destroyed and impossible to get back ever again. The lands bill is written in defiance of a lengthy and thoroughly researched conclusion DNR came to in their extensive report only two years ago that the precise lands included in the proposed University Grant should never be developed but preserved for the existing and continued high level of public recreational use. And DNR noted the great majority of the parcel in question is impossible to build on. Some ears have evidently been boxed at DNR to produce the lands bill with a straight face.

The no strings development the University land grant opens us up means the destruction of the very real and rich culture of a century old Alaskan townsite and its well demonstrated strong appeal for visitors. If they, and we, see paved roads, ferry terminals, all the development that is suddenly proposed for this bay and town visitors and homeowners hearts will sink and we surely will be dropped from tourism itineraries like a hot rock.

Baranof Water Supply:

Baranof depends completely on Baranof Lake and River for its fresh water. It is the present undisturbed natural terrain

that assures us of the clean and pure water we now have. As the selected lands are non-percolating the massive disturbance caused by construction along the east end and south shore of Baranof Lake and River will create filthy water as sediments and pollutants wash directly into the river and our drinking water. In fact it is impossible to redirect waste water and everything it will carry anywhere else but the lake and river. Fish and Game will tell you the river and lake are superb cut throat trout habitat highly prized by fishermen, and it is a world class destination for fly fishermen the bay,s wonderful Baranof Wilderness Lodge in particular caters to. Disturbance of muskeg creates a quagmire that will never resolve with ongoing use of these fragile areas. The fouling of the water will increase exponentially with additional construction of buildings and their use. We ask the House Resources Committee to exclude the Baranof-Warm Springs Bay lands from the selection to protect our only source of safe and clean water and the high levels of use of our lake and river provide. Please consult a map and notice how very close together these resources are grouped. Destroy one, destroy them all.

Baranof Hot Springs:

The hot springs between Baranof Lake and townsite are a legend in themselves, and supply hot water to homeowners and to the thousands of visitors to Warm Springs Bay. The City and Borough of Sitka has participated in the construction of a public bath house in Baranof that is enjoyed by thousands every year. Also there is a very substantial complex of natural hot mineral water pools in

the rain forest right alongside the Baranof River that is utterly spectacular. These pools have long been and continue to be described in superlatives in countless travel books, periodicals, current and ancient cruising atlases, and commercial cruise ships themselves include pictures and text in their advertising literature to tell potential clients they are in for something very special indeed when they arrive at Baranof in Warm Springs Bay for a soak in their famous hot springs. These hot springs come from deep beneath the earth, s mantle to the surface in extensive serpentine fissures that in the case of Tenakee are intelligently protected by blasting prohibitions. Tenakee has an ordinance prohibiting blasting anywhere within a 20 mile radius of the townsite in order to protect their one small spring. Baranof has nine primary fissures and springs in quite a close grouping used by many times more people than in Tenakee that richly deserve protection.

Certain of our springs are clearly quite unstable, delivering a substantial flow for a period (of months) and only a trickle the next. Our Sitka Assembly is presently working on an ordinance that will prohibit blasting within the most reasonable radius in order to preserve these wonderful springs that are a treasure for so many people.

Seismic Activity:

The 267 acres selected for the lands bill are identical with the land identified for most costly, and one of the most popularly reviled preliminary ferry terminal SATP plans. With specific regard to the cross-island road to Baranof,, a major east-west fault runs directly alongside and just to

the north of the proposed road bed. Furthermore, the fault is in an area of Baranof Island itself categorized as being at particularly high risk of seismic activity. For one, I feel pretty convinced that spending more than 100-million dollars to build such a road could instead buy a fleet of good smaller ferries with a turn of speed, as well as a little dredging and widening in Sergius Narrows. Then we will truly have a highly effective, flexible and vastly more affordable system that will realistically incorporate Sitka into the Southeast transportation grid.

Thank you for your attention in a matter that carries such broad and long term consequences for the financial, commercial, and cultural health of our state. Again we urge you to drop the 267 acres in Warm Springs Bay from any form of HB130.

Best regards,

Christine Lundstedt
Sarah Lundstedt
Dana Lundstedt
(registered Alaska voters all)

March 1, 2005

Christine Lundstedt
479 Katlian Street
Sitka, Alaska

Copy

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>

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State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska

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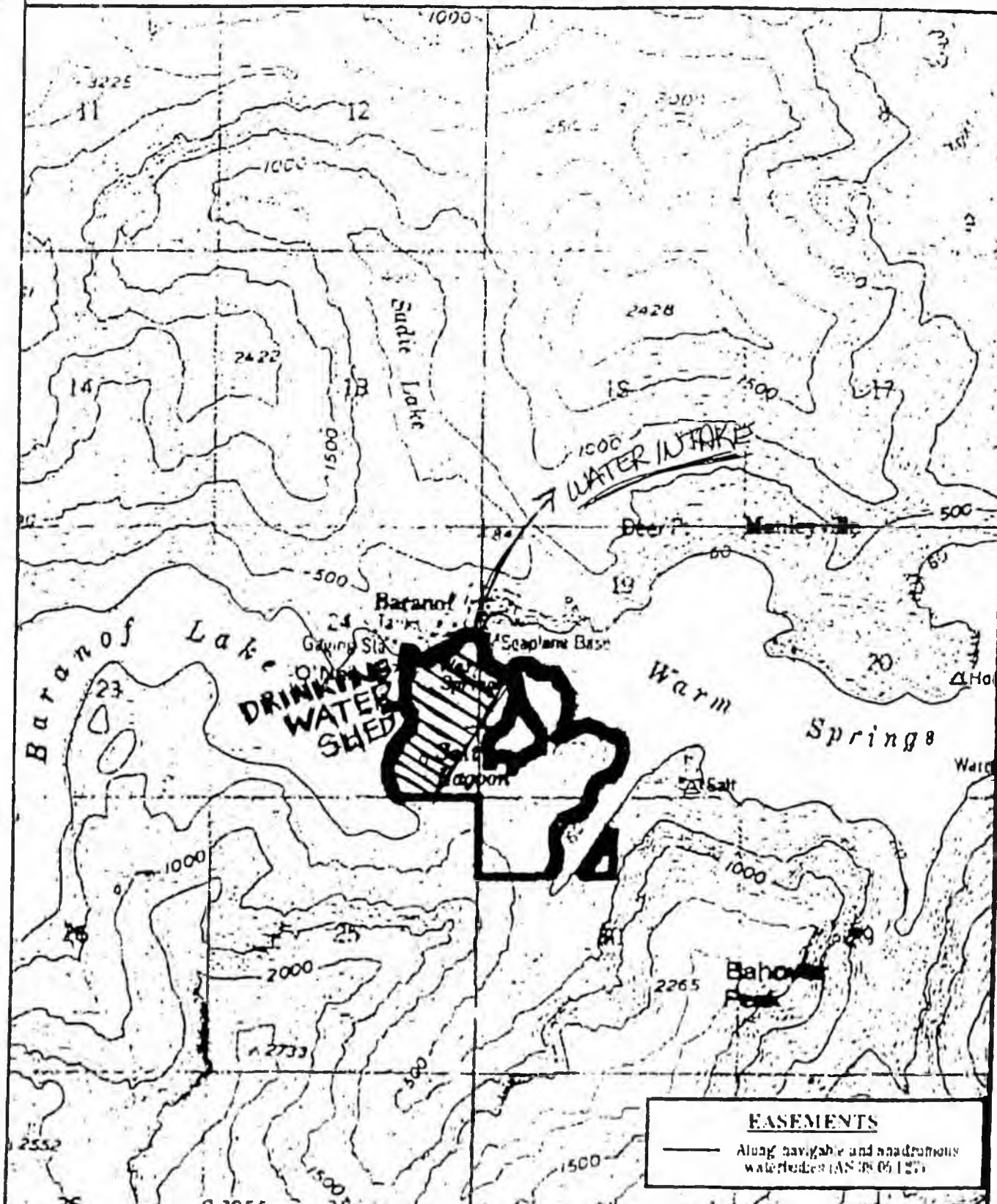
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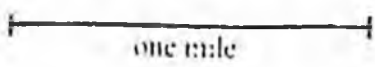
Warm Springs Bay

ST.1002



EASEMENTS
— Along navigable and anadromous water bodies (AS 09.05.127)

Prepared by: DNR
Source USGS MI, Sitka, A 3
Date: 12 2004



Meridian: CRM
Township: 55S
Range: 66-67E

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
DIVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

PHONE: 772-3741

FAX: 772-3779

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: Rep. Jay Rampeas

FAX: 465-2070

DATE: 3/1/05 ~~4/15~~

MESSAGE: 12 pgs to follow

Letters from public on HB130

Thank you -